

MINUTES: Centerville Township Windmill Ordinance Committee May 22, 2006

Present: Molly Hyde, Mark Zemanek, Carolyn Weed, Travis Nelson, Richard Kobetz, Gary Cook, Dale Pleva, Richard Light, David Wurm, Joseph Czerniak.

Discussion continued this week on the need to legally have the time to work on the wind ordinance. Ms. Weed brought to our attention an article from the Rockford Register Star in regards to a judges order to the township board to revisit a special use permit application for a wind farm. Their board had previously refused the application, but the judge determined that all qualifications within the existing ordinance had been met. It was suggested by Ms. Weed that we should request the township board seek a legal opinion on amending the current ordinance height limit for commercial windmills to 150' until the ordinance work is finished. We should also get an opinion on a moratorium in addition to or instead of enacting that amendment. There was a motion by Mr. Light and a second by Mr. Nelson to send our request to the township board for their consideration at their June meeting. All supported this motion.

Committee budget considerations were discussed. Possible financial needs of the committee would be: Postage, copies, paper, ink cartridges and other office supplies, travel to sites with existing commercial windmill operations, expenses associated with bringing consultants and experts to our meetings, aerial photos. Because it is difficult to guess at actual expenses, some are minimal and some could be quite large, it was decided to ask for a budget of \$1,000.

A work timeframe for this committee was also discussed. We need to establish a mission statement or a purpose for this committee. A plan of action also needs to be established. For instance, reviewing the Centerville Township Plan and ordinance, reviewing other ordinances from counties and townships, reviewing the lessons learned from areas that already have established commercial wind operations, research – gathering data that includes established standards (for example, noise) as well as opinions, gathering public input, site visits, consultant presentations, and finally drafting an wind ordinance and finalizing the process. It will be necessary to meet at least every two weeks. The process could take 6-9 months until the ordinance is drafted and sent on to planning. Each committee member will work on a plan of action this week and a plan will be established at the next meeting.

Discussion began on review of the Shawano and Otsego ordinances. Questions arose as to future wind generators and wind technology. Will they be larger, shorter, cylindrical, possible avoid impulse problems? What happens when the 20 years of an easement runs out? Do bigger machines replace what is there? Will other advancements in alternative power make them obsolete? Flicker issues were brought up. Some machines are required to be turned off when the sun shadow is on a building. This even applies to the future construction of buildings. Setbacks were mentioned. Shawano requires that adjacent property owners get a deed restriction recorded with the county. Violation enforcement and consequences at the township level will need to be addressed in an ordinance. Effects of turbines on emergency communications and television reception

have been included in other ordinances. What is the scale of turbines/towers. How would topography changes affect this? How would they be viewed from other areas?

Next meeting June 5, 2006

Respectfully submitted,
Molly Hyde